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Recreation Commission Minutes 03/09/2010

Park and Recreation Commission

Minutes

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Approved

The Park and Recreation Commission came to order at 7:25 PM on the first floor of the Arlington Senior Center on Tuesday, March 09, 2010.

Members in attendance included: Leslie Mayer, Jen Rothenberg, Nancy Campbell, Jim Robillard and Don Vitters. Also in attendance was Director of Recreation Joseph Connelly.

Members of the public included: Joel Higginson, Jeanne Leary, Michelle Durocher

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Campbell motioned to approve the February 9, 2010 minutes, seconded by Ms. Rothenberg, and approved 5-0.

Open Forum

Ms. Mayer reviewed the Open Forum process, explaining that citizens will have an opportunity to address the Commission and share their concerns but a back and forth discussion would not take place.

Mr. Higginson of 433 Summer Street reviewed his concerns with the noise of the rink after closing in the parking lot. Mr. Higginson does not believe the current loitering policy is effective.

Ms. Leary of 425 Summer Street shared similar concerns regarding the ice rink noise and the noise generated from the use of Buck Field.

Ms. Mayer stated that some of these issues would be discussed in the Warrant Article Review portion of the meeting.

Mr. Higginson stated that the loitering policy was not working. Mr. Higginson stated that just last night the police were called at 12:30 am to break up loud discussions in the parking lot. Mr. Connelly stated that he was not aware of this and will address the issue. Mr. Higginson reiterated his frustration.

Ms. Leary seconded everything stated by Mr. Higginson and further stated that it was a quality of life issue for the neighbors. Ms. Leary also stated that she hoped that additional lighting would be considered for the area as part of the playground renovation project. Ms. Leary stated that according to her data collected from the Arlington Police Department there have been 1697 calls since 2005. Mr. Connelly stated that he would look into that data.

Ms. Durocher stated that a tree has fallen blocking the path at McClennen and that there may be some damage to a neighbor's property. Durocher also stated that the pathways have significant drainage issues and that the material is washing into the waterway. Ms. Durocher asked if DPW could also look at the pathway at Berkley Street.

Warrant Article Review

Mr. Connelly reviewed the Warrant Articles with the Commission. Mr. Connelly stated that he did present to the Board of Selectmen during the open hearing and Mr. Connelly reviewed his comments and gave a brief meeting summary.

Mr. Higginson and Mr. Connelly discussed the current loitering policy. Mr. Connelly stated that he was under the impression it was working because the number of complaints has decreased significantly to his office.

Mr. Higginson stated that he felt there were too many warnings. Mr. Connelly stated that the rink needed that income and to lose that income in the middle of the season would be difficult to replace. Mr. Higginson suggested a financial penalty instead of loss of ice time. Ms. Mayer stated that she liked that idea as an added deterrent and would enhance revenue rather than penalize the rink.

Ms. Leary stated that the welfare of the neighbors was being put second to the revenue producing goals of the ice rink and that she felt like it was discrimination.

Ms. Durocher asked if the rink had an agreement or contract with the user groups. Mr. Connelly stated that they did.

Ms. Mayer explained why the warrant articles were much too specific and that the Commission had to look at them as town wide policies and not specific to one field. Mr. Higginson disagreed and said that Buck Field was very unique due to the topography of the abutting houses and their proximity the complex. Ms. Rothenberg stated that there were similar issues at almost every other park in town.

Ms. Leary asked that sound studies be performed during a game to see if they were in violation of the noise ordinances. Mr. Connelly and Ms. Mayer said that was a great idea but would have to be coordinated through the local Board of Health.

Mr. Connelly stated that he was working on a comprehensive policy and would work with the user groups and Mr. Higginson and the abutters prior to a final draft. The Commission will be implementing a revised policy before the spring season begins and will continue to refine the policy and penalties, as necessary, to balance the concerns of the neighbors with the uses of other members of the community.

Arlington Sport Center Review

Mr. Connelly reviewed the final bids from the Ice Rink renovation bid. Mr. Connelly stated that the low bid was from Preferred Mechanical and was as follows:

Design Phase 1	\$45,000.00	
Base Bid	\$734,208.00	
Alternate #1	\$24,175.00	Increase rink 10'
Alternate #2	\$21,780.00	Sub-floor heating grid
Alternate #3	\$59,400.00	Low E- Ceiling
Bond	\$11,896.00	
Boiler	\$65,000.00	
Total	\$961,459.00	
Remaining	\$48,541.00	

Mr. Connelly reviewed the anticipated start date of April 5th and end date of August 15th. Mr. Connelly stated that the first construction meeting would be taking place shortly and a detailed time-line will be set.

Capital Improvement Update

Thorndike Parking - Mr. Connelly reviewed the low bid for Thorndike Parking Lot. The low bid was JNJ Sacca, Inc out of Arlington, MA.

Expenses				
Design Phase 1	\$17,300.00			
Design Phase 2	\$15,800.00			
Preliminary Design	\$6,000.00			
Survey	\$5,600.00			
Base	\$96,400.00			
Alt #1	\$4,200.00	Timber Guardrail at Entrance		
Alt #2	\$6,300.00	Extending Stonedust Path Entire Field		
Alt #3	\$16,900.00	Remove Concrete Block and Install Timber Guardrail		
Bond	\$2,375.00			
Total Expenses	\$170,875.00			
Remaining	\$5,925.00			

Summer Street Playground – Bid Package being prepared. Mr. Connelly explained the high cost associated with the lighting study. Ms. Mayer asked Mr. Connelly to forward a copy of the final light study to the Police and the Planning Dept. to see if there is any opportunity for funding through grants. Ms. Rothenberg suggested that this might be a possible fundraising project for the neighborhood association.

North Union Basketball Court – Temporarily on hold. Mr. Connelly reviewed his conversation with Mr. Lionetta regarding involving the Park Commission early in the process to determine the location for the renovated/rebuilt Thompson School, which could impact the North Union recreation spaces.

Request for additional playground fencing for Magnolia, Crosby and Parallel – Tabled until a later meeting

Rink and Recreation Update

Mr. Connelly reviewed the success of the winter rink season and stated that the rink was scheduled to close on 3/21/2010 but was extended to 3/28/2010. Mr. Connelly stated that the rink has sold over \$6,000 worth of ice for that extra week.

Mr. Connelly stated that the Recreation Department recently went through a software upgrade and that it appeared it was very successful. Mr. Connelly stated that spring/summer registration was underway.

Special Event Approvals

Arlington Center for the Arts – Art in the Park – Menotomy Rocks Park – 8/1/2010 – Annual Event co-sponsored by Friends of Menotomy and Robbins Farm. Ms. Campbell motioned to approve with the condition of a Police Detail be present. Motion seconded by Mr. Vitters and approved 5-0. Mr. Connelly will also add the usual conditions regarding parking, driving on the field and trash.

Park Policies & Committee Updates

Mr. Connelly submitted a draft of the comprehensive field user policy for the Commission to review this included the: Amplification System, Lights and Storage Shed Policy.

Off-Leash Area Task Force – Ms. Mayer stated the second meeting would be held this week and that Somerville's Director of Parks and Open Space, Arn Franzen, would be sharing Somerville's experience with the group.

Other

Ms. Robillard motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Vitters and approved 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:35 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Joseph Connelly, Director of Recreation